



Media Release
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CRDAMC celebrates 50th anniversary

FORT HOOD, Texas – Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center celebrated its 50th year of providing care and concern for the Soldiers and their families at the “Great Place” during a ceremony April 16 in front of the hospital.

Darnall Army Community Hospital opened in 1965 replacing the World War II era hospital, a long group of one-story buildings connected with covered walkways. Constructed in the latest military design of that time, the original building cost \$6 million and was furnished with \$6 million of equipment.

Darnall was the first of three permanent Army hospitals of the 200-300 bed size to open at the time and is named in honor of Brig. Gen. Carl Rogers Darnall, M.D, who discovered the value of using compressed liquefied chlorine gas to purify water for use by troops in the field. His invention in 1910 of mechanical liquid chlorine purifier (chlorinator) is now used throughout the world. This monumental discovery was later applied to municipal water supplies.

While it is impossible to estimate the influence that a pure water supply has had on public health, the general’s biography states that more lives have been saved and more sickness prevented by Darnall’s contribution to sanitary water than by any other single achievement in medicine.

“Carl Rogers Darnall is more than just a name that adorns the building. Darnall’s life reveals a wealth of experiences and traits that we can individually identify with. He was an innovator, a teacher, a resource manager, a logistician, an administrator. He was—just as we are—in the business of serving others with care and concern,” said Col. Patricia Darnauer, CRDAMC commander.

Since opening in 1965, the facility has gone through multiple expansions to include the addition of the almost 50,000 sq. ft. Women’s Health Center. Even so, at 600,000 square feet, the current facility is undersized for the amount of services it provides.

“We’ve gone up and out as far as we can. It’s obvious we’ve outgrown the building,” Darnauer said. “Darnall's legacy of innovation and care will continue as we move into the new facility.”

The new 947,000 square-foot facility being constructed just south of the current medical center on the site of the old Fort Hood stadium is expected to be open for patients in 2016. The new medical center will be nearly 60 percent larger than the current facility and will serve roughly 45,000 Soldiers, as well as nearly 125,000 family members and retirees within a 40-mile radius.

There have been many changes over the years to the building but one thing that hasn’t changed is the quality of care that CRDAMC has provided to its patients, as noted by employees who have been working at the hospital for several decades.

Judy Tyler, a records management officer who started at Darnall as a clerk stenographer in 1976 was one long-term employee who shared her experiences at the ceremony.

“I was excited to start working at Darnall as I had heard it was the best place to work at on Fort Hood. And it truly has been,” Tyler said. “We’ve adapted to many changes. We had to work smarter to ensure we provided best care and support. We’ve pulled together during tragedies and did what we had to do. I’m extremely proud of the hospital and the services we provide.”